

THE DRAMA SCORED.

Rev. Dr. Riker's Final Sermon on
Worldly Amusements

GIVEN AT FOURTH STREET CHURCH

The Festive Bill Board Display Ought
to be Regulated by the City Council—Nearly all the Plays Seen Here
are of the Trashy Order—Bad Influence
of Tragic Acting.

Rev. Dr. A. B. Riker, of the Fourth
street M. E. church, preached last
night on "The Theatre," being the
concluding discourse of the series on
popular amusements, which has been
the topic for Sunday evenings during
this month.

In starting out, Dr. Riker outlined
the same text as on the previous three
Sunday evenings, and gave about the
same outline for his talk.

He thought Paul's position on institu-
tions or habits, that in themselves
may not be alarmingly harmful, should
and does meet with the approval of
most Christian people.

Humanity is one of the greatest
works of God. No beast can get as far
down as a human being, but no beast
can aspire to the heights to which a
man can arise. Can humanity and the
theatre be associated together to the
good of humanity? Is it as an institu-
tion a thing that can help a mortal to
heaven? If not, and it is not assumed by
then it should not be patronized by
God fearing people. He did not wish
to misrepresent anything. His purpose
was to stand forth for the right, and
not say a word against any institution
that does not deserve condemnation.

The theatre, more than almost any-
thing else, has received the condemna-
tion of good people of all ages. He
read what noted classic authors and
philosophers said relative to the de-
bauching influences of the playhouse.
Aristotle said he would require that no
man or woman should witness theatrical
productions until his or her mind
was proof against debauchery.

Continuing, he quoted from a num-
ber of modern authorities, showing the
debasing and degrading influences of
the theatre. Speaking of the force of
theatrical influences, he cited the
fearful influences of the theatre on
the ancients, especially Nero. Starting
on a line of amusement, it arouses the
barbaric sense in man, and requires
something more terrible; and just this
process is going on in the American
theatre. On an English authority, he
said one play house

than fifty churches can save.

Some say the theatre can be reformed.
This has been tried by such illus-
trious and good men as Forrest and
Booth. The latter sank over \$100,000
in New York city alone in an endeavor
to better and elevate the stage. When
such men as these fail in the undertak-
ing, what can others find of encourage-
ment? Both in England and America
all such attempts have signally failed.
Why? Because the kind of dramatic
entertainment these reformers would
furnish does not give the excitement
that the people want.

It is admitted that some of the finest
gems of thought that ever emanated
from the human mind have come from
dramatists. Among them are Shake-
speare, Sophocles, Johnson, Schiller
and others, who stand out as men of
marvelous brain. No praise is too high
for them, though it is true they were
compelled to put language in their pro-
ductions that we do not admire.

There is one other ground on which
the theatre ought to be condemned—
its expensiveness as a luxury.

The two theaters of this city cost the
people of Wheeling more than all the
churches combined. A moderate esti-
mate places the amount of money that
goes into the hands of strangers from
our pockets, at over \$50,000 a year. The
beneficiaries of this immense sum,
come and go, leaving the taste of a
doubtful influence. Booth and Barrett,
the tragedians, at one performance at
Nashville, Tennessee, received nearly
\$12,000. Two ladies who gave ten cents
a week to their church, were ardent ad-
mirers of the theatre, and in one month
spent over eighteen dollars apiece, go-
ing almost every night. The devil is a
hard taskmaster, makes you pay a big
price, and then without mercy crushes
you.

The influence of the theatre is bad.
At one of the performances of

EDMUND KEAN,
when he appeared as Sir Giles Overreach,
he so wrought up his audience by his
fearful portrayal of the character that the
poet Byron, who was present, fainted,
as did also one of the actresses in the
cast. Such an influence is not elevating
or good. It is the influence, this realistic
one, that draws the people to the
theatre. The same influence that al-
lows the bull fight in Spain and Mexico
and encouraged the brutal exhibitions
in the Roman amphitheatre. Kean was
popular because he was realistic in
his acting.

Is it strange that the most popular
entertainments are of the realistic or-
der? Are we so much better than
these Spanish, Mexican and Roman
"barbarians?"

The plays of the Shakespearean kind
are not the ones that attract most.
Those of the sensational and realistic
order are the ones the people want and
what they get.

Investigation in Chicago, New York,
Indianapolis and other American cities
shows that the preponderance of these
"trash" dramatic productions over the
solid or standard drama is overwhelm-
ing. "I am not a theatre goer" said
Dr. Riker, "but unless the bill boards
and the newspapers misrepresent,
ninety-nine out of every hundred plays
shown here in Wheeling, are of the
trash order. At the sight of these bill
boards my soul burns at the thought
that we have not a city council with
courage enough to wipe out these pic-
tures of lawlessness that stare in the faces
of our school children. What must
these scenes do on the stage, if they ap-
proach what is shown on the bill
boards?"

He spoke of the terrible influence on
the theatre goer caused by the ballet,
when women in "dreadfully brief"
dresses stand forth in unabashed ef-
rontery. Woman, who was created as
the helpmate of man, thus exhibiting
herself on the stage for money is a
dreadful thing to contemplate. A good
man or woman can't look on such
scenes continually and be pure.

Intemperance and gambling are ter-
rible vices, but it was licentiousness
that caused the fall of Solomon, of Han-
ibal and Carthage, of Rome and the
Roman empire. It destroyed every
civilization of the world.

The thing to do is to give up the
theatre. Even if it does not harm you,
your influence in stopping may save
some weaker brother.

The character of the people who go
to the theatre embraces the very worst

classes. Abandoned women are among
the theatre's best patrons. A theatre
in New York attempted to exclude
prostitutes, but failed, and the theatre
became virtually an assignation house.
The fascination of the theatre is bad;
it draws on and on. It is better to say
that you will not be under its influence,
and forsake it.

Still more could be said about the
fearful influences of the theatre. Be-
lieve me, if you study the theatre you
will give it up. It has all the elements
of evil and impurity.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

Matters of Minor Moment in and about
the City.

THE GRAND this evening—"Rocky
Mountain Wail."

OPERA HOUSE this evening—Wards
and James in "The Lion's Mouth."

HATTIE BERNARD CHASE is among the
future bookings at the Opera House.

YESTERDAY was Advent Sunday, and
was duly observed in the Catholic and
Episcopal churches.

THE J. W. Holliday Post will meet
next Saturday at the G. A. R. Hall to
elect officers for the coming year.

THERE was no session of the police
court Saturday. Business has been re-
markably dull for several days past.

SADIE SCANTLAN's late play will be at
the Opera House next Saturday even-
ing, under the management of Mr. Sid-
ney R. Ellis.

YESTERDAY a freight train broke loose
on the B. & O. track on Sixteenth
street, and for a while there was an ex-
citing scene, but no harm was done.

The recount of the vote by the county
commissioners, sitting as a board of
canvassers, will be resumed this morn-
ing at 9:30. It is likely to take all week
to finish it.

The William L. Wilson Tariff Stud-
ents will give a reception and concert at
Arion Hall, Tuesday, December 22.
The best local talent has been secured,
which, with the Opera House orchestra,
will give a most enjoyable entertain-
ment.

A YOUNG man by the name of Farley,
employed on the motor line, was badly
injured late last evening in Martin's
Ferry by a trolley falling and striking
him on the forehead, cutting a deep
gash, and probably fracturing his skull,
which may result fatally.

ABOUT PEOPLE.

Straugers in the City and Wheeling Folks
Abroad.

T. M. Griffith, of Sistersville, and S.
T. Mallory, of St. Mary's, are at the
Windor.

Mrs. Bracker, of Philadelphia, has
been visiting for the past week with the
Misses Schopfer.

William E. Shelly, of Portsmouth, O.,
has accepted a position as salesman at
the Hub clothing house.

H. T. Hawkins, of Fairmont, Basil T.
Bowers and M. A. Brast, of New Mar-
tinsville, registered at the Stamm yes-
terday.

J. J. Turner, superintendent of the
Pan Handle road, and a party of other
officials, were in Wheeling Saturday.
They were out on a tour of inspection.

Congressman Pearson, of the district
over the river, was here Saturday on
his way home from Washington. Judge
J. B. Driggs, of Woodsfield, was also
here.

The funeral of the late W. M. Wilkins
will take place from the family resi-
dence on the Island this morning at 9
o'clock. The interment will be at St.
Clairsville.

Mrs. Charles Monkemeller, of South
Market street, has returned from a
visit to her parents in Barnesville, O.,
accompanied by her brother, who will
visit her for some days.

Gen. A. H. Beach came home last
evening, after an extended absence.
He will remain in the city for several
months. He is still superintendent of
the sales department for the Bloch
Bros.' Tobacco Company.

S. H. Scofield, of Wheeling, was in the
city to-day on business. Mr. Scofield is
one of the proprietors of the new mu-
seum now building at Wheeling. It
will be a regular family resort, and con-
ducted on the style of the museums in
larger cities.—Steubenville Star.

David Rennie, of Fairmont; R. L.
Hutchison, of Huntington; J. A. Con-
nelly and E. L. Robinson, of Littleton,
C. R. Moore, of Bethany; Hon. M. T.
Barrett, of Parkersburg; William B.
Sims, of Mannington; F. M. Fowler, of
Glover's Gap, and J. H. Barry, of Ke-
nova, stopped at the Behler yesterday.

J. S. Echols returned last week from
a trip through Ohio and Indiana in the
interest of the Wheeling Corrugating
Company. He spent several days at
his farm at Long Bottom, Meigs county,
Ohio, where he superintended the
planting of over 1,000 fine fruit trees,
making this the largest orchard in the
state of Ohio.

The Comet Invisible Here.

If Biela's comet came into the ken of
the naked eye last night nobody in
this immediate vicinity saw it, because
dense clouds covered the sky and rain
fell pretty constantly after 6 p. m. If
there was any remarkable display of
"shooting stars" or meteoric distur-
bance, as there probably was, that, also,
was lost to the people of the Ohio Valley
for the same reasons. A great many
people were disappointed, while many
were badly frightened by the newspaper
stories about the impending doom.

Political Arrests in Chile.

VALPARAISO, Nov. 27.—Five colonels
and one intendente under Balmaceda
have been arrested and are now in jail,
charged with having been engaged in
the plot which was discovered recently.
Warrants have been issued for the ar-
rest of ex-General Varas and three
other colonels. All of these arrests
were made on orders issued by the
supreme court. A commission of congress
is engaged in perfecting a plan for the
simplification of the public service with
a view to a more economical adminis-
tration of the government.

His Prayer Answered.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 27.—Egbert
Wheeler, a coal merchant of the suburbs
of Armourdale, died very suddenly yes-
terday at his home. Since the death of
his little daughter two weeks ago Mr.
Wheeler has been very melancholy and
has prayed every day since that he
might join her. Before retiring he read
a chapter from the Bible, and kneeling
at the bedside prayed again, expressing
a desire to be with the child. Yester-
day morning he was found dead.

Bertha Will Contest.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Nov. 27.—There is
a probability of a legal contest over the
will of the late millionaire D. Edgar
Crouse. The reported contestant is a
New York city woman known here as
"Bertha," who claims to have been his
lawful wife and to be the mother of his
child.

No flowery rhetoric can tell the merit
of Hood's Sarsaparilla as well as the
cures accomplished by this excellent
medicine.

LABOR COMMISSIONER.

Two Candidates Endorsed by the
Trades Assembly Yesterday.

R. DOBLER AND MR. CORCORAN

Named as Suitable Persons to be Ap-
pointed by Governor MacCorkle.
An Appeal on Behalf of the Home-
stead Strikers Discussed and En-
dorsed—A Question as to Imported
Contract Labor Pending.

The Ohio Valley Trades Assembly
held an interesting session at their hall
yesterday afternoon. President Roman
Dobler and Secretary Salisbury occu-
pied their respective positions, and
several important questions were dis-
posed of.

After the reports of all the standing
committees were read and adopted, the
question of a final assessment for the
benefit of the Homestead strikers was
brought up in compliance with the fol-
lowing circular, dated November 19:

"It has been decided by the repre-
sentatives of the men, the officials of
the Amalgamated Association of Iron
and Steel Workers of America and the
Executive Council of the American
Federation of Labor, to designate Tues-
day, December 13, 1892, as Homestead
Day, and we call upon the wage-earners
as well as the liberty-loving people of
the country to make a contribution of a
portion of their earnings of that day to
aid our struggling brothers of Home-
stead in their contest to defend them-
selves before the courts."

This was signed by Samuel Gompers,
president, Chris Evans, secretary, and
the executive council of the American
Federation of Labor; M. M. Garland,
president, and John Kilgallon, sec-
retary, of the A. A. of I. and S. W., and
the advisory board at Homestead.

This caused considerable discussion
among the members as to what use the
money would be put to. President
Dobler made a short speech on the state
of affairs in that noted burrough. Mr.
Edward Robertson also spoke in favor
of the request of the circular being car-
ried out, and sanctioning it as a most
worthy object.

A motion was introduced that the
Trades Assembly endorse the request
and that all locals do the same. This
was carried unanimously.

This is not, however, compulsory with
every laboring man, connected with
unions, but it is expected that all will
contribute that day's pay to help the
strikers in their trials by law and aid
others who are in a destitute condition.

Secretary Salisbury was ordered to
notify each secretary of the different
locals of the assembly's action.

A report was made by the West Vir-
ginia legislative committee in regard to
one of the potteries in the city import-
ing foreign labor from Europe, in defi-
ance of the alien contract labor law of
this country, saying about thirty-five
workmen have been brought to this city
by misrepresentation. This the as-
sembly made an effort to stop, and an
investigation was ordered. Evidence
was collected and placed in the hands
of the immigration authorities, who did
nothing.

About ten days ago Special Commis-
sioner Charles Goff was detailed by the
treasury department to come to this
city and make a personal investigation,
and visit the surrounding pottery cen-
ters and secure evidence. A consulta-
tion was held on Friday evening by the
committee and Mr. Goff at the McLure
house, and he said that according to
the testimony furnished they had a
good case, but the commissioner of im-
migration, Mr. Stuckbridge, at the port
of Baltimore, had allowed them to pass
through according to the orders of the
court at that city, which was to the ef-
fect that the pottery could import them.
That settled it, unless an appeal was
made to the secretary of the treasury.
Mr. Goff will, however, continue his
investigations of the whole affair and
advise them later on.

Under the head of new business, an
interesting episode occurred, when Mr.
Norrington arose and moved to endorse
Mr. Roman Dobler to succeed Mr. Ed-
ward Robertson as the state labor com-
missioner under Governor MacCorkle.
This brought Secretary Salisbury to his
feet, and he said that "no politics were
allowed in the assembly."

Mr. Norrington laughingly replied
that he was not discussing politics, but
just desiring to help Brother Dobler, who
had the support of his local and had
served the assembly so well in the past.

Mr. Dobler then left the chair and
stated his desires to the assembly, call-
ing Mr. Jere Mead to his place to wield
the gavel. At the conclusion of Mr.
Dobler's remarks, another member
jumped up and made an amendment,
which was carried, that the assembly
endorse both Mr. Roman Dobler and
Mr. John Corcoran, who was also a good
friend of labor. It was resolved that
the appointment of either would be
suitable to the laborers in this valley.

No further business of importance
was transacted, and the meeting ad-
journed.

CORBETT'S BIG SCHEME

To Be a Fact—The Proposed World's Fair
Theatre.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—Jim Corbett's
scheme for the construction of a mas-
sive building in which to hold sparring
exhibitions and appear daily in plays
at the World's Fair, Chicago, is already
a fixture. B. H. Flauley and O. H.
Matthews, of Chicago, representing a
syndicate of capitalists of that city, and
who are the promoters of the scheme,
have arrived in this city for the sole
purpose of securing Corbett's signature
to a contract. The representative of
the syndicate says the building is to be
built at a cost of \$100,000. Every known
improvement will be introduced. The
building will be located on Fifty-sixth
street, between Cornell street and East
End avenue. It will be convenient to
all rail and water routes. William A.
Brady will manage the theatrical end of
the venture. Corbett is to give three
performances daily. The champion be-
lieves that the venture will be a profit-
able one. He will start in to perform
at Chicago about May and continue in-
cessantly until September. He expects
to realize over \$50,000. The building
will be known as Corbett's Vaudeville
and Opera House.

The Law Will Take Its Course.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 27.—Last
Wednesday night Harry Warren, an
aged colored man, was foully murdered
near Greenwood, Abbeville county.
Yesterday Winston Morton, also colored,
was arrested for the crime and lodged
in the station house at Greenwood. The
negroes have congregated in large num-
bers to lynch Morton, but the prisoner
will be defended and the law will take
its course.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

MADAME ROLLA

Sang in Cincinnati Yesterday—Her Mother
Was There With Her.

Yesterday's Cincinnati Enquirer had
the following:

Mme. Kate Rolla, of London, Eng-
land, and Mrs. George K. Wheat, of
Wheeling, W. Va., were at the St. Nich-
olas last night. Mme. Rolla was well
known in Cincinnati society several
years ago as the wife of Oscar Rammels-
berg, and is a woman of great personal
beauty and charming manners. She
studied under Alfai, and sang brilliant-
ly at several home concerts. It is nearly
ten years since she left for Europe to
complete her vocal training under Mar-
chesi in Paris. Since that time she has
been traveling all over the Continent.
At the St. Nicholas an Enquirer reporter
found her a most charming conversa-
tionalist on the subjects of opera and
concert.

"Just think of it," said she, "I have
been away from Cincinnati ten years,
and no sooner do I return to the coun-
try of my birth than by some remark-
able chance I am called upon to do my
first singing in Cincinnati, where I
lived so many years and believe I have
so many friends. I sang, during my
absence, in all of the principal cities of
Italy, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Rus-
sia and England. For the past three
seasons I have been the soprano at the
Covent Garden, London, and during
the winter seasons sang in grand opera.
I hope I shall be able to please Cincin-
natis as well as I did the London peo-
ple."

Mme. Rolla is accompanied by her
mother, Mrs. Wheat. She will sing at
the "Pop" concert this afternoon in
Music Hall.

"New Mexico."

"New Mexico" is the title of Mr. Ed-
mund E. Price's latest effort, which will
be presented at the Grand opera house
next Thursday night, December 1. Miss
Theresa Newcomb, the leading spirit of
the company, is a strong and at the
same time very vivacious young lady,
who will appear in a dual role, that of
twin brothers, one a planter and the
other a Mexican ranger. The plot of
"New Mexico" is interesting, dealing
with scenes and incidents of that state
in a manner entirely out of the com-
mon. The scenery, upon which many
of the stronger situations depend, is of
the most realistic kind, and is carried
by the company. The comedy is fur-
nished by an old darkey and an Irish-
man and his wife, who introduce some
clever specialties.

"The Rocky Mountain Wail."

This evening Little Goldie will com-
mence a three nights' engagement at
the Grand in the beautiful western
romance called "The Rocky Mountain
Wail." It is a picture of life on the
frontier, and has a prologue and four
acts. The company is said to be good
and the scenery very fine. The com-
pany will no doubt open to the capacity
of the Grand this evening. A matinee
will be given on Wednesday afternoon.
Seats are on sale at Genthers.

A Great Dramatic Treat.

This evening two of the leading legiti-
mate actors on the American stage will
appear at the Opera House. It is so-
lomon Wheeling theatre goers have an
opportunity to see at home two such
actors as Frederick Warde and Louis
James in a splendid drama, like Henry
Guy Carlton's "The Lion's Mouth."
The advance sale of seats is large, and a
fine audience is assured. Everywhere
the company has appeared the press
with one voice pronounces the perfor-
mance worthy to rank with the best legiti-
mate achievements of recent years.

"Natural Gas."

"Natural Gas," which is to be let
loose in town again Thursday night,
is this year of a better quality than it
was when here before. It burns brighter,
it never flickers for an instant, and it
brings more genuine laughs in a minute
than any other laughing gas in the
world over. The clever comedians,
Donnelly and Girard, are yet the stars
of the organization, and they have ad-
ded a galaxy of pretty women and good
actors who make the fun run fast and
furious from the rise to the fall of the
curtain.

Rosina Vokes.

Miss Rosina Vokes had two good
houses at the Opera House Saturday.
At the matinee the same bill presented
Friday night was repeated, to the de-
light of the fine audience. In the eve-
ning "Crocodile Tears" and "My Lord in
Liver," new pieces, and "My Milliner's
Bill," an old favorite, made up the pro-
gramme. The audience was convulsed
throughout. The company made a big
jump from here, going to Norfolk, Va.,
via Washington City.

In Holland, Mich., C. J. Doesbury
publishes the News, and in its columns
strongly recommends Dr. Thomas'
Electric Oil for coughs, colds, sore
throat, catarrh and asthma. DAW

ICE CREAM, cakes, coffee and home
made candy, at the concert, at the
Second Presbyterian church Tuesday
evening.

New Wall Paper Firm.

Mr. Ross Chew, who spent seven
years in the retail wall paper business
in this city, and for the past three years
has been connected with one of the lead-
ing eastern wholesale wall paper houses,
has entered into partnership with the
well known firm of Geo. E. Kurner &
Co., and will carry on business at the
old stand, No. 39 Twelfth street,
the firm name hereafter being
Kurner & Chew. The long experience
of these enterprising gentlemen in the
line of wall paper, paints, window plate
and ornamental glass, etc., guarantees
satisfaction to all their customers. The
firm will make a specialty of contract
work in all branches pertaining to house
decoration, painting and paper hanging.

Are you constipated? Bastin's Kid-
ney and Liver Tea effects a permanent
cure. 25 cents. W

BECHAN'S PILLS are faithful friends.

DIED.

JEISON.—On Sunday, November 27, 1892, at noon,
S. E. JEISON, father of F. P. JEISON, in his
58th year.

Funeral services at the Fourth Street M. E.
Church, Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock. In-
terment private at Greenwood Cemetery.

UNDERTAKING.

LOUIS BERTSCHY,
(Formerly of Frew & Bertschy),
FUNERAL DIRECTOR
And Arterial Embalmer,
1116 Main Street, East Side.
Calls by telephone answered day or night.
Store telephone, 635; residence, 595. ap27

ALEX FREW,
1117 Main Street.

UNDERTAKER.

Am prepared to conduct burials in a most satis-
factory manner; all modern undertaking ap-
paratus and use black and white funeral cards.
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Coffins, Caskets and a full line of burial goods.
I aim to be prompt, considerate and reliable.
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Residence, ALEX. FREW—No. 217.
Store—No. 223.

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Chairs, Rockers, Brass Bed,
Sideboards, Desks, Chiff-
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Racks, Tables, Rattan,
Rockers, Sham Pillows, Bed
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Carpets, Oil Cloths, Mirrors,
etc., etc.

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of Goods, for Wholesale and
Retail, are now open for in-
spection.

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1119 and 1120 Main Street.

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Furniture Dealers and Undertakers,
DOT THIS DOWN FOR A FACT.

That our establishment is a model one in every respect.
That in our attractive assortment, prompt service and fair treatment, our customers
are amply and satisfactorily served.
That while we cannot give you something for nothing, we aim to give a good, honest
deal every time. We invite your personal inspection.

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